

Winehaven, Rectangular Three-Bedroom-Plan
Residence (Bldg. No. 54)
Point Molate Naval Fuel Depot
Richmond
Contra Costa County
California

HABS No. CA-2658-H

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WINEHAVEN, RECTANGULAR THREE-BEDROOM-PLAN RESIDENCE

(BUILDING 54)

HABS No. CA-2658-H

Location: Point Molate Naval Fuel Depot, Point Molate, Richmond, Contra Costa County, California

Significance: Building 54 is a representative example of one of four building types found at Winchaven. Winchaven was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, with 35 contributing buildings. Winchaven represents the remains of a company town, including industrial, residential, and support buildings, built by the California Wine Association between 1907 and 1919. Of these, 29 buildings are residences, comprising four essential types. Building 54 is a good example of one type, called the "Rectangular Three-Bedroom Plan" in the general HABS documentation for Winchaven.

Description: Building 54 is an example of a repetitive building type at Winchaven, herein called the "Rectangular Three-Bedroom Plan." It is a compact residence with an area of about 1,100 sf. As with all cottages in the area, it is woodframe and front gabled, with a roof form that includes clipped eaves at the rear, exposed rafters on the sides, and a roof overhang with five brackets at the facade. It is sided with stucco over shingles and roofed in composition shingles. It includes an enclosed porch at the facade. Windows for the home include paired 3-1 double-hung wooden sash, paired 1-1 double-hung wooden sash, and 1-1 double-hung wooden sash. The building is not truly rectangular: the rear service porch and, in some models, one of the bedrooms extend beyond the rear plane of the rest of the building.

The attached floor plan shows the layout of Building 54. Access is gained from an enclosed porch at the facade. This porch (like all porches in the residential area) was originally open with a half-height wooden barrier. All of the entry porches to the houses at Winchaven were enclosed with fixed, multiple-light enclosure, added by the U.S. Navy. Building 54 is unique among all of cottages in that the enclosure has been partially removed, revealing the original open-porch design. Entry is gained through a front door at the end of the front porch: this door is perpendicular to the plane of the facade. This door is a one-light, one-panel wooden door which appears to be original. There is a two-light, one panel door at the rear of the building.

The front door opens into a combined living-dining room, measuring about 26'6" by 12'6". A narrow but long kitchen is located behind the living room and a small service porch behind the kitchen. There are no interior doors separating the living room, kitchen, and service porch. The three bedrooms and the bath are stacked on the opposite side of the home from the common spaces.

The most unusual aspect of the floor plan for the building is the fact that all bedrooms as well as the bath and hall closet open to a small hallway (5' x 9'). The hallway is accessed from the dining area near its juncture with the kitchen. The hallway is akin to a small antechamber, just large enough to allow passage to these five areas. The five doors, all of which are original, can barely open within this space without striking one another. Building 54 has an area of about 1,100 sf.

Although generally intact, this building does include several modifications. The most notable is the stucco surfacing over the original wooden shingle siding. A second modification was the enclosure of the front porch area, although, as noted, this enclosure has been partially removed. The rear utility room on Building 54 appears to have been an addition. A fourth, relatively minor modification was the installation of a non-functional chimney near the facade. The chimney is a rectangle, probably fashioned of steel or aluminum, faced in a material (probably vinyl) that resembles a brick appearance. Interior modifications include vinyl floors throughout; the original flooring is not known. The kitchens and baths have been remodeled entirely.

Historical Context: The entire Winehaven complex was built between 1907 and 1917, with the industrial buildings being generally older than the residences. The exact dates of construction cannot be established for individual residences, although it is clear that the cottages were built in stages. It appears that Building 54 was built before 1916, making it one of the older residences in the complex.

The 28 smaller cottages at Winehaven served as housing for workers in the Winehaven industrial facility. The cottages were occupied for a relatively short period of time: Building 54 was occupied longer than most, but was used no longer than from 1910 to early 1919. These homes were vacant throughout the 1920s and 1930s. In 1942, the old Winehaven complex was purchased by the Federal government for use as a Naval Fuel Depot. The housing was adapted for use as family housing by the Navy, a use that continued until the early 1990s.

Sources:

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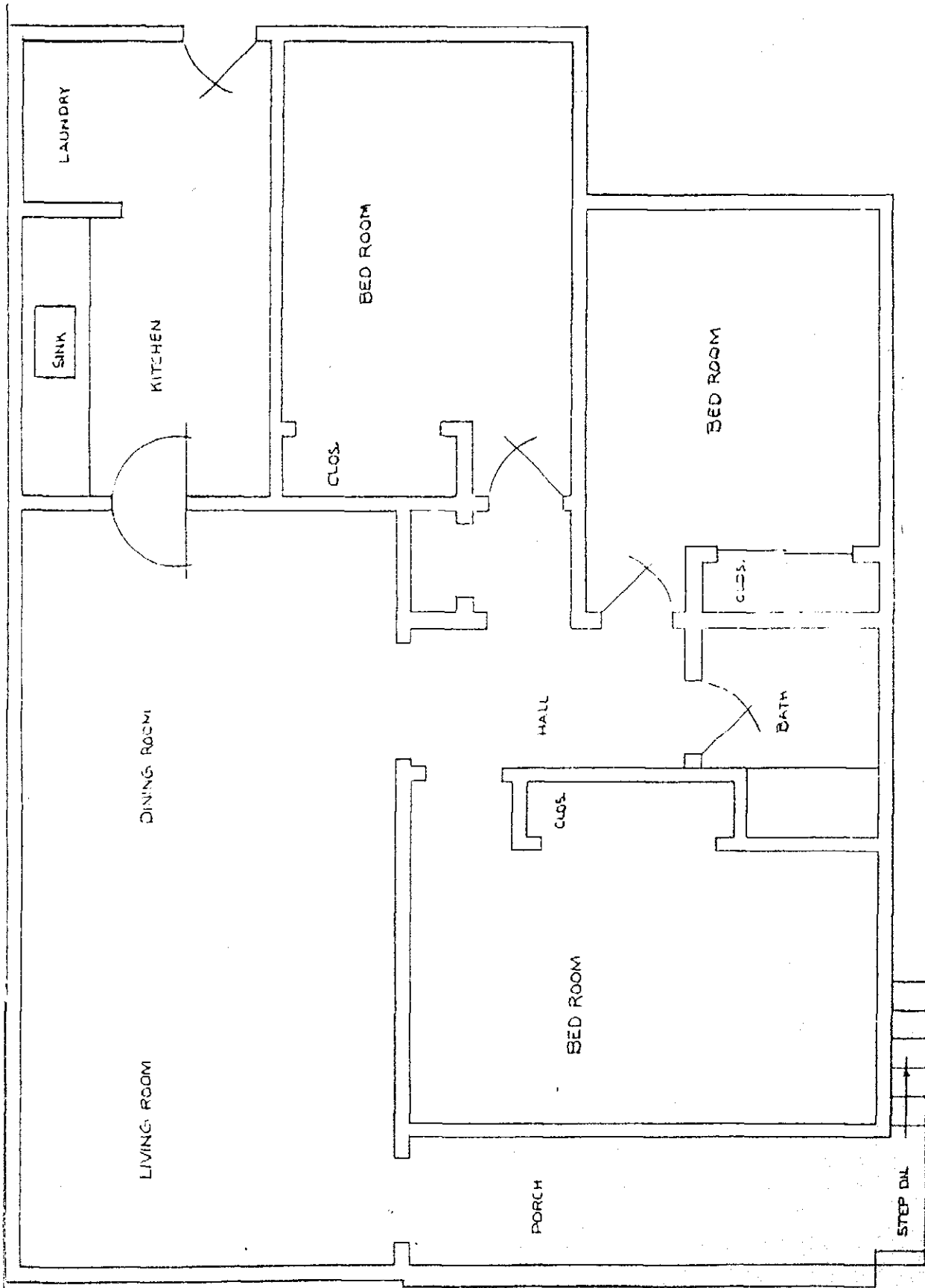
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U.S. Navy, "Map of Naval Fuel Depot, San Francisco Bay Area, Molate Point, Richmond, California, Twelfth Naval District," June 30, 1944.

U.S. Navy, "Map of Naval Fuel Depot, San Francisco Bay Area, Molate Point, Richmond, California, Twelfth Naval District," June 30, 1949 and June 30, 1960.

Project Information: The Naval Fuel Depot, Point Molate, was identified for closure under the recommendations of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission, along with the Oakland Fleet Industrial Supply Center, which administers the Point Molate Facility. The ultimate disposition of the buildings at the Point Molate facility is unknown at this time. The U.S. Navy is currently negotiating with the City of Richmond regarding transfer of the land and buildings at Point Molate. The U.S. Navy has initiated Section 106 consultation regarding this property and is developing a plan for disposal and reuse of the Depot, including the Winhaven housing units.



Scale: 1 inch = 5 feet

BUILDING 54